

Serial No. 10/564,499
Response dated January 13, 2009
Reply to Office Action dated November 6, 2008

PATENT
PF030116
Customer No.: 24498

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner noted that claims 2, 4-10 and 17-22 are pending in the application and that claims 2, 4-10 and 17-22 stand rejected. By this response, claims 2, 4, 7-9, 17, 20 and 22 are amended to correct for formality errors pointed out by the Examiner and to more clearly define the invention of the Applicant.

In view of the amendments presented above and the following discussion, the Applicant respectfully submits that none of the claims now presently in the application are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 or rendered obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Furthermore, the Applicant also submits that all of these claims now satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Thus, the Applicant believes that all of these claims are now in allowable form.

Rejections

A. 35 U.S.C. § 112

The Examiner rejected claims 8, 17, 19 and 22 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which the Applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claims 8, 17, 19 and 22, the Examiner states that each of the claims recite the limitation "the means for displaying" and that there is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation.

In response, the Applicant has herein amended claims 8, 17 and 22 to recite "a means for displaying". Having done so, the Applicant respectfully submits that the basis for the Examiner's rejection of claims 8, 17, 19 and 22 has been removed. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's rejection of claims 8, 17, 19 and 22 be withdrawn.

B. 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Examiner rejected the Applicant's claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 17-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Takahashi et al. (US Patent No. 4,982,179, hereinafter "Takahashi"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

"Anticipation requires the presence in a single prior art reference disclosure of each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in the claim"

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(Lindemann Maschinenfabrik GmbH v. American Hoist & Derrick Co., 730 F.2d 1452, 221 USPQ 481, 485 (Fed. Cir. 1983)) (emphasis added).

In the Final Office Action, the Examiner conceded that Takahashi fails to teach or suggest three identification devices on three distinct sides for displaying an identifier for the camera, such that the identification devices are directed into three different directions covering an angle range of 270 degrees and making the identification devices simultaneously visible in a range of viewing angles covering at least 270 degrees, and that if such limitations were included in at least the Applicant's independent claims, that the Takahashi reference would be overcome.

As such, the Applicant has amended the Applicant's independent claims to include the limitations that the Examiner suggested, if claimed, would overcome the Takahashi reference.

Therefore, the Applicant submits that for at least the reasons recited above, Takahashi absolutely fails to teach, suggest or anticipate each and every element of the claimed invention, arranged as in at least the Applicant's claim 2 as required for anticipation. Therefore, the Applicant submits that, as conceded by the Examiner, the Applicant's claim 2 is not anticipated by the teachings of Takahashi, and as such, fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

Likewise, the Applicant's claim 4 is an independent claim that recites similar relevant features as the Applicant's independent claim 2. The Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the same reasons as recited above with reference to the Applicant's amended claim 2, independent claim 4 is also not anticipated by the teachings of Takahashi and, as such, fully satisfies the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and is patentable thereunder.

Furthermore, dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 17-18 and 20-22 depend directly from the Applicant's independent claims 2 and 4 and recite additional features therefor. As such and for at least the reasons recited above, the Applicant submits that dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 17-18 and 20-22 are also not anticipated by the teachings of Takahashi. Therefore the Applicant submits that dependent claims 2, 4, 6, 7, 9-11, 17-18 and 20-22 also fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 102 and are patentable thereunder.

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The Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of each of the claims individually in subsequent prosecution.

C. 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 5, 8 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahashi in view of Kamiko et al. (US Patent No. 6,515,643, hereinafter "Kamiko"). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As stated above and for at least the reasons recited above, the Applicant submits that the teachings of Takahashi absolutely fail to teach, suggest, anticipate or render obvious at least the Applicant's independent claims 2 and 4. More specifically, Takahashi absolutely fails to teach, suggest, anticipate or render obvious three identification devices on three distinct sides for displaying an identifier for the camera, such that the identification devices are directed into three different directions covering an angle range of 270 degrees and making the identification devices simultaneously visible in a range of viewing angles covering at least 270 degrees as taught in the Applicant's Specification and as claimed by at least the Applicant's amended, independent claims 2 and 4, as conceded by the Examiner.

As such and for at least the reasons recited above, the Applicant further submits that the teachings of Takahashi also absolutely fail to teach, suggest, anticipate or render obvious at least the Applicant's claims 5, 8 and 19, which depend either directly or indirectly from the Applicant's claim 4.

The Applicant further submits that the teachings of Kamiko absolutely fail to bridge the substantial gap between the teachings of Takahashi and the invention of the Applicant. More specifically, Kamiko teaches an image display apparatus suited to viewfinder. In Kamiko, an image display apparatus has a main display area in which a plurality of pixels are arranged horizontally and vertically in an array condition, and at least one sub display area in which a plurality of pixels are arranged horizontally and vertically in an array condition, provided separately from and outside the main display area. In the image display apparatus, two types of lines are arranged in a matrix manner horizontally and vertically against the main display area and the sub display area to drive the plurality of pixels, and driving

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units for applying driving signals to the lines arranged in the matrix manner are also provided.

However, the Applicant submits that there is absolutely no teaching, suggestion or disclosure in Kamiko for three identification devices on three distinct sides for displaying an identifier for the camera, such that the identification devices are directed into three different directions covering an angle range of 270 degrees and making the identification devices simultaneously visible in a range of viewing angles covering at least 270 degrees as taught in the Applicant's Specification and as claimed by at least the Applicant's amended, independent claims 2 and 4.

In fact, the Applicant submits that the Examiner concedes that the Kamiko reference alone fails to render the Applicant's claims 2 and 4 obvious. That is, the Examiner only applied Kamiko to the Applicant's claims for teaching a tally lamp placed at the side of a viewfinder of a TV camera.

Therefore, and for at least the reasons recited above, the Applicant submits that any allowable combination of Takahashi and Kamiko fail to teach, suggest or render obvious the Applicant's invention, at least with respect to the Applicant's claims 2 and 4, and as such, claims 5, 8 and 19, which depend either directly or indirectly from the Applicant's amended, independent claims 2 and 4.

Therefore, the Applicant submits that for at least the reasons recited above, the Applicant's claims 5, 8 and 19 are not rendered obvious by the teachings of Takahashi and Kamiko, alone or in any allowable combination and, as such, fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 103 and are patentable thereunder.

The Applicant reserves the right to establish the patentability of each of the claims individually in subsequent prosecution.

Conclusion

Thus the Applicant submits that none of the claims, presently in the application, are anticipated under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 102 or rendered obvious under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Furthermore, the Applicant also submits that all of these claims now satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Consequently, the Applicant believes that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

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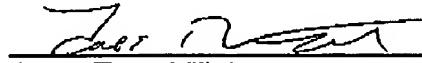
If however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring adverse final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone the undersigned.

No fee is believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

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